

REMARKS

Claims 12-16 and 29-40 are pending; new claims 29-40 have been submitted for consideration, claims 12, 16, and 22 have been amended, and claims 17-21 have been canceled by this amendment.

This application is a divisional of co-pending patent application 10/390,286 filed March 12, 2003.

In the Office action, dependent claims 19-22 were objected to but otherwise indicated as containing allowable subject matter.

Original independent claim 12 has been amended to clarify its wording and to incorporate the limitations of rejected dependent claim 17 and objected to and now-canceled dependent claim 19. Original claims 13-16 and 22 are directly or indirectly dependent upon independent claim 12.

New independent claim 29 includes the recitations of claim 12 (as amended), rejected dependent claim 17, and objected to and now-canceled dependent claim 20. New claims 30-35 are dependent on independent claim 29 and are modeled after original dependent claims 13-16 and 22.

New independent claim 36 includes the recitations of claim 12 (as amended), rejected dependent claim 17, and objected to and now-canceled dependent claim 22. New claims 37-40 are dependent on independent claim 36 and are modeled after original dependent claims 13-16.

Applicant does not believe any additional fees are necessary due to any claims added by this amendment. Prior to the amendment, the application contained claims 12-22, of which only claim 12 was an independent claim. However, the highest number of claims Applicant paid for was 3 independent and 20 total. Following this amendment, the application contains 3 independent claims (no.'s 12, 29, and 36) and a total of 18 claims. However, if the Examiner finds otherwise, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account 14-0116 for any additional fees that may be necessitated by this amendment.

Appln: 10/729,580 --- December 4, 2003

In view of the above, it is submitted that the pending claims are allowable;
any early indication thereof is respectfully requested.

Date:

NASA Glenn Research Center
2100 Brookpark Road
Office of Chief Counsel; Mail Stop 500-118
Cleveland OH 44135

Telephone: 216.433.8855

Atty Docket: LEW 17,293-2

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kent N. Stone".

Kent N. Stone
Reg. No. 31883